

Brown Bag It with Books
Joan's Mystery Picks
February, 2012

Bass, Jefferson

The series is written by the team of Dr. Bill Bass, the forensic anthropologist who founded the legendary Body Farm (Tennessee's experimental laboratory devoted to the study of the way human corpses decompose), and Jon Jefferson, a journalist and filmmaker.

Still recovering from the emotional devastation of his wife's death, Dr. Brockton stumbles across a mummified female body, and his passion for the truth enmeshes him in a probe that verifies rumors of local corruption. His particular skills are vital to identifying the corpse as well as those who might have been motivated to kill the victim decades earlier. The pacing and action sustain this crime series

There are 6 books in this series, with the seventh out May 1012.

Corris, Peter

Cliff Hardy, ex-army, law student dropout, insurance company investigator turned Private Eye, embraces the best aspects of Australian life - tolerance, classlessness, the vigorous urban and rural culture - while despising the greed and the conservatism that are constantly threatening to undercut what he sees as "real Australia".

Inevitably drawn into the sphere of the people he deplores, Hardy struggles to resolve his cases while remaining true to his own threatened values. The professional challenges spill over into his personal life where he is never on firm ground.

Peter Corris produces fully-fledged Australian crime novels with local settings and reference points and with a series character firmly rooted in Australian culture.

9 books in the series at NPL.

Grabenstein, Chris

Set in Sea Haven, along the Jersey shore, this is a series that shows the evolution of a friendship between two very different men.

A former military policeman in Iraq, John Ceepak has brought his considerable physical strength, crime-solving skills and morality to the beachside town; "a cop 24/7," he spends his spare time reading about forensics and watching true-crime shows on TV. Assisting Ceepak is 24-year-old Danny Boyle, a part-time summer cop who joined the force largely to impress college girls. The only thing they have in common is a love for Bruce Springsteen

At first Ceepak's personal code of honor only amuses or annoys the cynical Boyle. But as he (and we) get to know the former soldier, the portrait of a true hero emerges.

This is a series of 7.

Housewright, David

Rushmore McKenzie is a retired cop, an unexpected millionaire and, occasionally, an unlicensed private investigator in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota.

A series of 8 books

Krueger, William Kent

Chicago cop Cork O'Connor and his wife Jo move back to his northern Minnesota hometown of Aurora to improve their quality of life, but it hasn't worked. Cork became the local sheriff, but lost an election. Lawyer Jo has become a successful advocate for tribal rights and Cork is reduced to running a scruffy restaurant and gift shop. Krueger quickly makes Cork a real person beneath his genre garments, mostly by showing him trying to deal with the needs of his two very different teenage daughters. And the author's deft eye for the details of everyday life brings the town and its peculiar problems to vivid life. Cork's Ojibwe heritage adds a fascinating dimension to this series.

William Kent Krueger explores northern Minnesota, Cork's Ojibwe heritage, family dynamics & a mystery or two in his 12 books.

McGarrity, Michael

Kevin Kerney is still recovering from the physical and psychic wounds that forced his retirement from the Santa Fe police force, when his former partner asks him to search for his son-Kerney's godson-who is AWOL from nearby White Sands Missile Range. And an Air Force officer love interest.

This is a fast read that also informs a bit about the Southwest, the military and Native American traditions.

There are 13 books in the series.